

Attorney Docket No. AGZP:115US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/709,189
Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2005
Date: January 6, 2006

Current Status of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A pair of counter rotating folding rollers for use in machines for converting paper or similar products, each of said pair of counter rotating folding rollers comprising at least one substantially cylindrical body and a plurality of folding means, said plurality of folding means being provided on a folding zone that is a part of the overall length of each of said pair of counter rotating folding rollers, wherein said pair of folding rollers interact at a contact line to produce a stack of folded and/or interfolded sheets within said folding zone and downstream from said contact line characterised in that at least one support positioned within said folding zone and spaced apart from said contact line is provided for each of said pair of folding rollers in order not to impede folding operations in said folding area zone.
2. (previously presented) The pair of counter rotating folding rollers according to claim 1, wherein between said at least one support and said supported folding roller a bearing is provided suitable for allowing a free rotation of said supported folding roller with respect to said at least one support.
3. (previously presented) The pair of counter rotating folding rollers according to claim 1, wherein each of said pair of counter rotating folding rollers further comprises a gap for contacting said at least one support wherein said gap is located at the end of or between said plurality of folding means.
4. (currently amended) The pair of counter rotating folding rollers according to claim 1, wherein said each of said pair of counter rotating folding rollers comprises at least a first and a second cylindrical body wherein one end of each of said first and second cylindrical bodies are coaxial

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to each other and operatively connected to each other along the cylindrical axes of said first and second cylindrical bodies so that they can rotate integrally.

5. (previously presented) The pair of counter rotating folding rollers according to claim 4, wherein at least one of said at least one support for each of said pair of folding rollers further comprises a relative bearing arranged to contact said folding roller at said operatively connected ends.

6. (withdrawn) Method to obtain folded and/or interfolded sheets of paper and similar products by feeding and moving a sheet or web of paper or similar products in a folding and/or interfolding machine up a couple of folding counter rotating rollers, said rollers being suitable for cooperating at a contact line for making a stack of interfolded and/or folded sheets in a folding area located downstream of said contact line characterised in that said folding rollers are held by a support spaced from said contact line without impeding folding operations in said folding area.

7. (new) A pair of counter rotating folding rollers for use in machines for converting paper or similar products, each of said pair of counter rotating folding rollers comprising at least one substantially cylindrical body and a plurality of folding means, wherein said pair of folding rollers interact at a contact line to produce a stack of folded and/or interfolded sheets downstream from said contact line characterised in that at least one support spaced from said contact line is provided for each of said pair of folding rollers in order not to impede folding operations in said folding area and wherein each of said pair of counter rotating folding rollers

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further comprises a gap for contacting said at least one support wherein said gap is located at the end of or between said plurality of folding means.